

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) In an tilt and telescopic position adjustable, impact absorbing type steering column apparatus for an automotive vehicle in which comprises:

an upperan outer column; is fitted to a lower column fixed to a car body so as to
an inner column fitted to said outer column so as to be telescopically slidale therein;

a fastening lock mechanism operable between a fastened state in which said fastening lock mechanism fastens fitting portions of said outer column and said inner column radially inwardly so that the steering column is fixed in an adjusted tilt and telescopic position and an unfastened state in which said outer column and said inner column are released so that said tilt and telescopic position is adjustale; and

an energy absorbing arrangement which absorbs absorb an impact energy upon a secondary collision while

moving with movement of said upper inner column towards a front side of the automotive vehicle,

an improvement characterized in that a low-friction material treatment is effected on one or both of slide surfaces of said fitting portions of said two columns so as to facilitate adjustment of the steering column.

2. (Currently Amended) An impact absorbing type steering column apparatus for an automotive vehicle according to claim 1, wherein said steering column apparatus is of an a column assist electric power steering type of a column assist type.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) In an a tilt and telescopic position adjustable, impact absorbing type steering column apparatus for an automotive vehicle in which comprises:

an upper an outer column; is fitted to a lower column fixed to a car body so as to
an inner column fitted to said outer column so as to
be telescopically slidable therein;

a fastening lock mechanism operable between a fastened state in which said fastening lock mechanism fastens fitting portions of said outer column and said inner column radially inwardly so that the steering column is fixed in an adjusted tilt and telescopic position and an unfastened state in which said outer column and said inner column are released so that said tilt and telescopic position is adjustable; and an energy absorbing arrangement which absorbs absorb an impact energy upon a secondary collision while moving with movement of said upper inner column towards a front side of the automotive vehicle,

an improvement characterized in that a sleeve subjected to a low-friction material treatment is interposed between said fitting portions of said two columns so as to facilitate adjustment of the steering column.

5. (Previously Presented) An impact absorbing type steering column apparatus for an automotive vehicle according to claim 1, wherein the low-friction material treatment is one of baking of molybdenum disulfide, baking of fluororesin, baking of a mixture of molybdenum disulfide and fluororesin, coating of a ceramic, a metal

soap treatment, a low-friction plating treatment and coating of a lubricating agent.

6. (Previously Presented) An impact absorbing type steering column apparatus for an automotive vehicle according to claim 2, wherein the low-friction material treatment is one of baking of molybdenum disulfide, baking of fluororesin, baking of a mixture of molybdenum disulfide and fluororesin, coating of a ceramic, a metal soap treatment, a low-friction plating treatment and coating of a lubricating agent.

7. (Previously Presented) An impact absorbing type steering column apparatus for an automotive vehicle according to claim 3, wherein the low-friction material treatment is one of baking of molybdenum disulfide, baking of fluororesin, baking of a mixture of molybdenum disulfide and fluororesin, coating of a ceramic, a metal soap treatment, a low-friction plating treatment and coating of a lubricating agent.

8. (Currently Amended) An impact absorbing type steering column apparatus for an automotive vehicle according to ~~claims~~claim 4, wherein the low-friction

material treatment is one of baking of molybdenum disulfide, baking of fluororesin, baking of a mixture of molybdenum disulfide and fluororesin, coating of a ceramic, a metal soap treatment, a low-friction plating treatment and coating of a lubricating agent.